

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A computer-implemented method for obtaining information across a network comprising:
 - determining a speed of a network connection to which a computer is attached; and
 - obtaining information from across the network connection based on the speed of the network connection, wherein a size of the information to be obtained decreases as the speed of the network connection decreases.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining a speed of a network connection comprises:
 - transmitting a request for information of a pre-known size across the network connection;
 - obtaining the information of the pre-known size from across the network connection; and
 - measuring a round-trip response time calculated from the transmitting of the request to completion of the obtaining of the information from across the network connection.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining a speed of a network connection comprises pinging a host where the information is stored from across the network connection.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the information comprises graphics.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the information to be obtained is reduced in size such that the graphic is physically smaller visually as the speed of the network connection decreases.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein the information to be obtained is reduced in size such that color is diminished from the graphic as the speed of the network connection decreases.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein the information to be obtained is reduced in size such that color is removed and shades of gray are reduced from the graphic as the speed of the network connection decreases.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the information is obtained across the network connection from one or more libraries that maintain the information in various sizes.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the information is obtained from a server across the network connection to a client.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the determining a speed is performed by an applet obtained by the client.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein an applet tag corresponding to the obtained applet is present in a web page obtained by the client, wherein the applet tag is dynamically inserted into the web page by the server.

12. The method of claim 9 further comprising the client:
determining particular information to obtain based on the speed of the network connection; and
obtaining the particular information from the server.

13. The method of claim 9 further comprising the client:
issuing a request for information;
transmitting the speed of the network connection to the server; and
obtaining particular information from the server, wherein the server determines the particular information based on the speed of the network connection.

14. A computer-implemented system for obtaining information across a computer network comprising:

(a) a client;
(b) an adaptive agent executing on the client, wherein the adaptive agent is configured to:

(i) determine a speed of a network connection to which a computer is attached; and

(ii) obtain information from across the network connection based on the speed of the network connection, wherein a size of the information to be obtained decreases as the speed of the network connection decreases.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the adaptive agent determines a speed of a network connection by:

transmitting a request for information of a pre-known size across the network connection;

obtaining the information of the pre-known size from across the network connection; and

measuring a round-trip response time calculated from the transmitting of the request to completion of the obtaining of the information from across the network connection.

16. The system of claim 14 wherein the adaptive agent determines a speed of a network connection by pinging a host where the information is stored from across the network connection.

17. The system of claim 14 wherein the information comprises graphics.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the information to be obtained is reduced in size such that the graphic is physically smaller visually as the speed of the network connection decreases.

19. The system of claim 17 wherein the information to be obtained is reduced in size such that color is diminished from the graphic as the speed of the network connection decreases.

20. The system of claim 17 wherein the information to be obtained is reduced in size such that color is removed and shades of gray are reduced from the graphic as the speed of the network connection decreases.

21. The system of claim 14 wherein the adaptive agent is configured to obtain the information across the network connection from one or more libraries that maintain the information in various sizes.

22. The system of claim 14 wherein the adaptive agent is configured to obtain the information from a server across the network connection.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein the adaptive agent is an applet.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein an applet tag corresponding to the obtained applet is present in a web page obtained by the client, wherein the applet tag is dynamically inserted into the web page by the server.

25. The system of claim 22 wherein the client is further configured to:
determine particular information to obtain based on the speed of the network connection; and

obtain the particular information from the server.

26. The system of claim 22 wherein the client is further configured to:

issue a request for information;

transmit the speed of the network connection to the server; and

obtain particular information from the server, wherein the server determines the particular information based on the speed of the network connection.

27. An article of manufacture embodying logic for performing a method of obtaining information across a network, the method comprising:

determining a speed of a network connection to which a computer is attached; and

obtaining information from across the network connection based on the speed of the network connection, wherein a size of the information to be obtained decreases as the speed of the network connection decreases.

28. The article of manufacture of claim of claim 27 wherein the method for determining a speed of a network connection comprises:

transmitting a request for information of a pre-known size across the network connection;

obtaining the information of the pre-known size from across the network connection; and

measuring a round-trip response time calculated from the transmitting of the request to completion of the obtaining of the information from across the network connection.

29. The article of manufacture of claim 27 wherein the method for determining a speed of a network connection comprises pinging a host where the information is stored from across the network connection.

30. The article of manufacture of claim 27 wherein the information comprises graphics.

31. The article of manufacture of claim 30 wherein the information to be obtained is reduced in size such that the graphic is physically smaller visually as the speed of the network connection decreases.

32. The article of manufacture of claim 30 wherein the information to be obtained is reduced in size such that color is diminished from the graphic as the speed of the network connection decreases.

33. The article of manufacture of claim 30 wherein the information to be obtained is reduced in size such that color is removed and shades of gray are reduced from the graphic as the speed of the network connection decreases.

34. The article of manufacture of claim 27 wherein the method obtains the information across the network connection from one or more libraries that maintain the information in various sizes.

35. The article of manufacture of claim 27 wherein the method obtains the information from a server across the network connection to a client.

36. The article of manufacture of claim 35 wherein the method for determining a speed is performed by an applet obtained by the client.

37. The article of manufacture of claim 36 wherein an applet tag corresponding to the obtained applet is present in a web page obtained by the client, wherein the applet tag is dynamically inserted into the web page by the server.

38. The article of manufacture of claim 35, the method further comprising:
the client determining particular information to obtain based on the speed of the network connection; and
the client obtaining the particular information from the server.

39. The article of manufacture of claim 35, the method further comprising:
the client issuing a request for information;
the client transmitting the speed of the network connection to the server; and
the client obtaining particular information from the server, wherein the server determines the particular information based on the speed of the network connection.